

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 /064 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4410

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0825

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, AR

SUBJECT: ECONOMY MINISTER MONDELLI'S NEW ECONOMIC TEAM

REF: BUENOS AIRES 754

1. ON FEBRUARY 5, ECONOMY MINISTER EMILIO MONDELLI NAMED THE
FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF:

POSITION	FORMER INCUMBENT	NEW INCUMBENT
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SECY. OF PLANNING & COORDINATION	ING. GUIDO DITELLA	DR. RICARDO ARRIAZU
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SECY. OF INTL. COMMERCIAL RELATIONS	AMB. LEOPOLDO TETTAMANTI	AMB. CARLOS CONRADO BECKMANN
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SECY. OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT	ING. LUIS J. VASALLO	JOSE ARGENTINO WAHNISH
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SECY. OF AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK	ING. LUCIO G. RECA	RENE PABLO DELPECH
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SECY. OF COMMERCE	DR. GERARDO MENDOZA	JOSE EDUARDO LLORENS
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PASTOR

SECY. OF GEN.(RET) ERNESTO GEN.(RET) ERNESTO
COMMUNICATIONS DELLA CROCE DELLA CROCE

SECY. OF ENERGY EDUAREO PABLO SETTI RAUL ERNESTO
GUIZCARDIO

SECY. OF NATURAL ING. LUCAS A. ING. LUCAS A.
RESOURCES TORTORELLI TORTORELLI

SECY. OF TRANSPORT CAPT.(RET) HUGO G. GEN.(RET) AGUSTIN
& PUBLIC WORKS GUILLAMON DIGIER

SECY. OF FINANCE LIC. RODOLFO JUAN CARLOS
FRIGERI LAURENS

PRESIDENT, CENTRAL EMILIO MONDELLI DR. EDUARDO
BANK ZALDUENDO (FORMER
VICE PRESIDENT)

NOMINATIONS TO OTHER OFFICIAL BANKS AND ENTITIES NOT YET
ANNOUNCED. (VILLANUEVA CERTAIN TO LEAVE MINISTRY WITH DI TELLA.)

2. ARRIAZU IS REPUTED TO BE A COMPETENT TECHNICIAN WHO HAS
PARTICIPATED IN GOA FINANCIAL MISSIONS ABROAD, INCLUDING ONE
WITH FORMER MINISTER CAFIERO. BECKMANN, UNTIL THIS APPOINT-
MENT, HAS BEEN UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN
FONOFF. HE IS WELL KNOWN TO EMBASSY AS A LIKEABLE CONSERVA-
TIVE GENTLEMAN OF THE OLD SCHOOL WHO RECEIVES EMBASSY'S
REPRESENTATIONS WITH SYMPATHY BUT TAKES NO ACTION. HE IS A
CONTRAST TO HIS PREDECESSOR, TETTAMANTI, A DYNAMIC AND
FORCEFUL OFFICIAL ALTHOUGH ONE OFTEN DESCRIBED AS OF LEFTIST
ECONOMIC LEANINGS. IN AGRICULTURE, DELPECH IS A LONG-
STANDING CONTACT OF THE EMBASSY AND REGARDED AS COMPETENT
AND RELATIVELY NON-POLITICAL. IN THESE RESPECTS, HE IS
SIMILAR TO RECA WHOM HE REPLACED. WE DO NOT HAVE AN INSIDE
TRACK ON THE OTHER SECRETARIES AT THIS TIME. ZALDUENDO HAS
BEEN WITH THE CENTRAL BANK FOR SEVERAL YEARS, IS WELL KNOWN
TO THE EMBASSY, AND IS CONSIDERED A GOOD APPOINTMENT.

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3. COMMENT: AS REFTEL INDICATED, THERE IS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM
ABOUT MONDELLI'S APPOINTMENT. THOUGH A WELL-REGARDED
BANKER, AS MINISTER HE IS THOUGHT OF AS SOMETHING OF A POLITICAL
NON-ENTITY. TAKING THE TEAM AS A WHOLE, AT FIRST LOOK ITS
CHANCES OF BEING ABLE TO DEAL WITH ARGENTINA'S CURRENT
ECONOMIC CRISES APPEAR LESS THAN THAT OF THE TEAM IT
REPLACED. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE WE CAN LOOK FOR MUCH
IMAGINATION OR INITIATIVE FROM THIS GROUP AND MONDELLI WILL

PROBABLY RUN IN TO THE SAME PROBLEMS WHICH HIS FIVE PRE-DECESSORS IN THIS PERONIST GOVERNMENT FACED: LACK OF DIRECTION AND SUPPORT AT THE TOP. MONDELLI'S BRIEF STATEMENTS SO FAR HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION OF WHAT COURSE HE PLANS TO PURSUE, AND WE WILL REPORT FURTHER. WE WILL ALSO BE CONTACTING ARRIAZU AND BECKMANN INITIALLY TO PICK UP THREADS OF OUR PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE INVESTMENT PROBLEMS OF U.S. FIRMS AND GOA ELIGIBILITY FOR GSP.

4. MONDELLI HEADED GOA DELEGATION TO RECENT IMF MEETING AT JAMAICA. ANY IMPRESSIONS USDEL MEMBERS MAY HAVE RECEIVED OF HIM WOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST.
HILL

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